

St MARY'S CHURCH, EDVIN LOACH

June 2015 Newsletter

Dear All,

Sunday May 10th was Rogation Sunday. Helen, George, Maisie and Russell joined about 14 other intrepid walkers at Upper Sapey church the start of this year's walk. It was perfect walking weather, dry overhead with the sun out but not too hot. As we made our way from Upper Sapey conversations sprung up amongst the walkers giving all a chance to meet new friends. The children, adults and our doggie companions made good pace and after about the 6th stile between our start point and Wolferlow (we lost count of just exactly how many stiles we did climb over!) we arrived at Wolferlow church. After a short prayer we all joined Heather for a welcome sit down and to take on board some refreshments – thank you Heather, Graham and Henry. Sylvia our walk co-ordinator kept us to time and we were soon making our way through yet more glorious Herefordshire countryside.

Chris, Lynette and Emily accompanied us along some of the next stage - thanks to the Edwards family for allowing our walk to pass through. Next we went into the Whistance family woods. Spring flowers and trees just breaking full leaf were our surroundings for a while – thank you to the Whistance family for letting us all go through. As we peeked out from the wood following Phil Read's track – thanks Phil, we spied Edvin Loach church. Those who know will tell you that it's all up hill from the Hope farm! On arrival at the church we settled ourselves down in front of the church to enjoy our picnics and marvel at the view towards the Malvern's.

We had to end our walk at this point, although the children did wish to carry on. However with Stats week starting the following day revision was the afternoons plan. Hopefully next year we will do the whole walk.

Our May service on Sunday 17th was the first Sunday after Ascension Day. During the service Tom, Maisie, Russell, James and George let us all in on some interesting facts and legends about Ascension Day - here's what they told us.

Russell said - Ascension Day is the 40th day after Easter. It marks the ascension of Jesus going to heaven 39 days after his resurrection. There is a myth in England that eggs laid on Ascension Day are said never to go bad and will give the family good luck if they are put in the roof.

Maisie said - Between the Easter resurrection and Ascension Day Jesus met with his disciples and apostles to tell them how to carry out his teachings. Some countries have processions on Ascension Day and chase a "devil" through the streets and dunk it in a pond a symbolic way to show Jesus's triumph over evil.

Tom said - In the bible we read that on Ascension Day Jesus took the disciples to the Mount of Olives where they stood and watched as he went up into heaven. In Portugal people make bouquets from olive branches and sheaves of wheat with poppies and daisies. The olive and wheat are symbols of a good harvest; the poppy stands for peace and the daisy for money. Wheat is kept in the house throughout the year for prosperity.

George said - Jesus's ascension marks the end of the Easter season. This is when the Easter candle lit at the Holy Saturday vigil is put out.

Many countries have processions with torches and banners and bless fruit and vegetables. A myth is that if it rains on Ascension Day crops and livestock will do badly, if it is sunny however the summer will be long and hot – can you remember what the weather was like on Thursday? (It was a long time ago now but it rained all day!)

James said - 10 days after Ascension Day it is Pentecost when the Holy Spirit visited the disciples. In Sweden on Ascension Day people go into the woods very early in the morning to hear the birds at sunrise. It is good luck if you hear a cuckoo call from the east or west. According to Welsh myths it is unlucky to do any work on Ascension Day!

Found! In the churchyard by the old ruin a melamine camping style cup, white with coloured stripes around the top. If it's yours it's near the inside near the church door.

Suspicious Vehicle - a red KA style car has been spotted with white males inside acting suspiciously near the church. Registration number WN53HSA.

Our next Sunday service on June 21st at 3pm. The service is to remember our loved ones by lighting candles and placing flowers into a vase.

My nephew recently spent the day with us in the holidays, on returning home he let me in on a joke he had seen recently – thought I would share it with you!.....

Two students from a theological training college decided to spend part of their holiday in the countryside doing outreach. They stopped at an old house, and proceeded up the path through a gauntlet of screaming children and a washing line heavy with wet clothes. When they got near the door, the woman of the house stopped scrubbing the steps, brushed her hair and perspiration from her brow, and asked them what they wanted. "We'd like to tell you how you can live forever," they answered.

The exhausted woman hesitated for a moment, and then replied, "Thank you, but I don't think I could stand it!"

Regards

Helen Read

Currently reading Two Small Footprints in Wet Sand by Anne-Dauphine Julliand translated by Adriana Hunter

